

NEW CLAIMS

3. A system for processing message traffic in a plurality of electronic discussion forums, comprising:

a message collector for collecting messages from the plurality of electronic discussion forums;

a message categorizer for processing the messages based on a series of topics; and

a data analyzer for tracking a plurality of pseudonyms posting in the plurality of

electronic discussion forums based on the processing of the messages.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the message collector communicates with a database storing configuration information for the plurality of electronic discussion forums, thereby enabling the message collector to collect messages corresponding to a plurality of message formats or communications protocols.

5. The system of claim 3, wherein the message categorizer computes at least one relevance score for a message, the relevance score providing a measure of the relevance of the message to at least one topic from the series of topics.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the at least one relevance score is computed based on a set of predetermined conditions corresponding to the at least one topic.

7. The system of claim 5, wherein the at least one relevance score is computed based on two or more of the source, subject, and content of the message.

8. The system of claim 5, wherein the set of predetermined conditions comprises a condition and a weight.

9. The system of claim 5, wherein the series of topics comprises a plurality of stocks.

10. The system of claim 5, wherein the series of topics comprises a plurality of movies.

11. The system of claim 5, wherein the series of topics comprises a plurality of books.
12. A system for processing message traffic in a plurality of electronic discussion forums, comprising:

a message collector for collecting messages from the plurality of electronic discussion forums;

a message processor for processing the messages according to a series of topics, wherein the message processor processes a message to compute a relevance of the message to at least one topic from the series of topics; and

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a data analyzer for tracking a plurality of pseudonyms posting in the plurality of electronic discussion forums based on the processing of the messages.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the message processor processes the messages to compute an opinion for the message according to the at least one topic.
14. The system of claim 13, wherein the opinion is computed based on a textual analysis of the message.
15. The system of claim 12, wherein the data analyzer is adapted to receive market data describing market events related to the series of topics.
16. The system of claim 15, wherein the market data comprises stock data.
17. The system of claim 15, wherein the market data comprises box office sales.
18. The system of claim 15, wherein the market data comprises television market shares.
19. The system of claim 15, wherein the data analyzer is adapted to process the market data in order to identify correlations or trends for future market events based on the tracked pseudonyms.

20. The system of claim 15, wherein the data analyzer is adapted to process the market data in order to identify correlations or trends for future market events based on a community mood measurement.

21. The system of claim 15, wherein the data analyzer is adapted to process the market data in order to identify correlations or trends for future market events based on both the tracked pseudonyms and a community mood measurement.

22. The system of claim 20, wherein the community mood measurement is based on changes in discussion levels for a specific topic.

23. The system of claim 20, wherein the community mood measurement is based on a number of new posting pseudonyms for a specific topic.

24. The system of claim 20, wherein the community mood measurement is based on a number of new posting pseudonyms compared to a number of old posting pseudonyms for a specific topic.

25. A system for processing messages collected from a plurality of electronic discussion forums, comprising:

a message collector for collecting messages from the plurality of electronic discussion forums;

a message processor for processing the messages according to a series of topics, wherein the message processor processes the messages to compute the relevance of a message to at least one topic from the series of topics; and

a data analyzer for tracking a plurality of pseudonyms posting in the plurality of electronic discussion forums based on the processing of the messages;

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wherein the tracking of the plurality of pseudonyms is used to predict events external to the plurality of electronic discussion forums.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the data analyzer processes past external events in order to classify a pseudonym.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein the classified pseudonym is given a score based on the classification.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein the score is one of a high, low, or medium score.

29. The system of claim 26, wherein the classification relates to the tendency of the pseudonym to initiate or moderate discussions in a forum.

30. The system of claim 26, wherein the classification relates to the tendency of the pseudonym to accelerate or decelerate a buzz level in a forum.

31. The system of claim 26, wherein the classification relates to the tendency of postings by the pseudonym to precede a rising market or a falling market.

32. The system of claim 26, wherein the classification relates to the tendency of postings by the pseudonym to accelerate a buzz level without measurably affecting future external events.

33. The system of claim 26, wherein the classification relates to the tendency of postings by the pseudonym to initiate lengthy discussion threads.

34. A system for processing messages collected from a plurality of electronic discussion forums, comprising:

means for collecting messages from the plurality of electronic discussion forums;

means for processing the messages according to a series of topics, wherein the processing includes determining the relevance of a message to at least one topic; and

means for tracking posting activity of a plurality of posters based on the processing of the messages;

wherein the tracked posting activity is used to predict external market events.

35. The system of claim 34, wherein the means for tracking is adapted to identify opinion leaders based on the processing of the messages.

36. The system of claim 35, wherein the means for processing is adapted to perform linguistic analysis on the messages.

37. The system of claim 36, wherein the means for processing is adapted to identify patterns in the messages.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein the patterns are identified using at least one of the following techniques: chaos theory; complexity theory; social network theory; and neural network theory.

39. A method for processing message traffic in a plurality of electronic discussion forums, comprising the steps of:

collecting messages from the plurality of electronic discussion forums;

processing the messages based on a series of topics; and

tracking a plurality of pseudonyms posting in the plurality of electronic discussion forums based on the processing of the messages.

40. The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of storing configuration information for the plurality of electronic discussion forums in a database, and wherein the step of collecting messages comprises collecting messages corresponding to a plurality of message formats or communications protocols.

41. The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of computing at least one relevance score for a message, the relevance score providing a measure of the relevance of the message to at least one topic from the series of topics.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein the at least one relevance score is computed based on a set of predetermined conditions corresponding to the at least one topic.

43. The method of claim 41, wherein the at least one relevance score is computed based on two or more of the source, subject, and content of the message.

44. The method of claim 41, wherein the set of predetermined conditions comprises a condition and a weight.

45. The method of claim 41, wherein the series of topics comprises a plurality of stocks.

46. The method of claim 41, wherein the series of topics comprises a plurality of movies.

47. The method of claim 41, wherein the series of topics comprises a plurality of books.

48. A method for processing message traffic in a plurality of electronic discussion forums, comprising the steps of:

collecting messages from the plurality of electronic discussion forums;

processing the messages according to a series of topics and computing a relevance of the messages to at least one topic from the series of topics; and

tracking a plurality of pseudonyms posting in the plurality of electronic discussion forums based on the processing of the messages.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein processing step further comprises the step of computing an opinion for the message according to the at least one topic.

50. The method of claim 49, wherein the step of computing an opinion comprises the step of performing a textual analysis of the message.

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51. The method of claim 48, further comprising the step of receiving market data describing market events related to the series of topics.
  52. The method of claim 51, wherein the market data comprises stock data.
  53. The method of claim 51, wherein the market data comprises box office sales.
  54. The method of claim 51, wherein the market data comprises television market shares.
  55. The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of processing the market data in order to identify correlations or trends for future market events based on the tracked pseudonyms.
  56. The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of processing the market data in order to identify correlations or trends for future market events based on a community mood measurement.
  57. The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of processing the market data in order to identify correlations or trends for future market events based on both the tracked pseudonyms and a community mood measurement.
  58. The method of claim 56, wherein the community mood measurement is based on changes in discussion levels for a specific topic.
  59. The method of claim 56, wherein the community mood measurement is based on a number of new posting pseudonyms for a specific topic.
  60. The method of claim 56, wherein the community mood measurement is based on a number of new posting pseudonyms compared to a number of old posting pseudonyms for a specific topic.
  61. A method for processing messages collected from a plurality of electronic discussion forums, comprising the steps of:

collecting messages from the plurality of electronic discussion forums;

processing the messages according to a series of topics, and computing a relevance of a message to at least one topic from the series of topics; and

tracking a plurality of pseudonyms posting in the plurality of electronic discussion forums based on the processing of the messages;

wherein the step tracking of the plurality of pseudonyms is used to predict events external to the plurality of electronic discussion forums.

62. The method of claim 61, further comprising the step of processing past external events in order to classify a pseudonym.

63. The method of claim 62, wherein the classified pseudonym is given a score based on the classification.

64. The method of claim 63, wherein the score is one of a high, low, or medium score.

65. The method of claim 62, wherein the classification relates to the tendency of the pseudonym to initiate or moderate discussions in a forum.

66. The method of claim 62, wherein the classification relates to the tendency of the pseudonym to accelerate or decelerate a buzz level in a forum.

67. The method of claim 62, wherein the classification relates to the tendency of postings by the pseudonym to precede a rising market or a falling market.

68. The method of claim 62, wherein the classification relates to the tendency of postings by the pseudonym to accelerate a buzz level without measurably affecting future external events.

69. The system of claim 62, wherein the classification relates to the tendency of postings by the pseudonym to initiate lengthy discussion threads.



70. A method for processing messages collected from a plurality of electronic discussion forums, comprising the steps of:

collecting messages from the plurality of electronic discussion forums;

processing the messages according to a series of topics, wherein the processing includes

determining the relevance of a message to at least one topic; and

tracking posting activity of a plurality of posters based on the processing of the messages, wherein the tracked posting activity is used to predict external market events.

71. The method of claim 70, wherein the step of tracking comprises identifying opinion leaders based on the processing of the messages.

72. The system of claim 71, wherein the step of processing comprises performing linguistic analysis on the messages.

73. The system of claim 72, wherein the step of processing comprises identifying patterns in the messages.

74. The system of claim 73, wherein the patterns are identified using at least one of the following techniques: chaos theory; complexity theory; social network theory; and neural network theory.